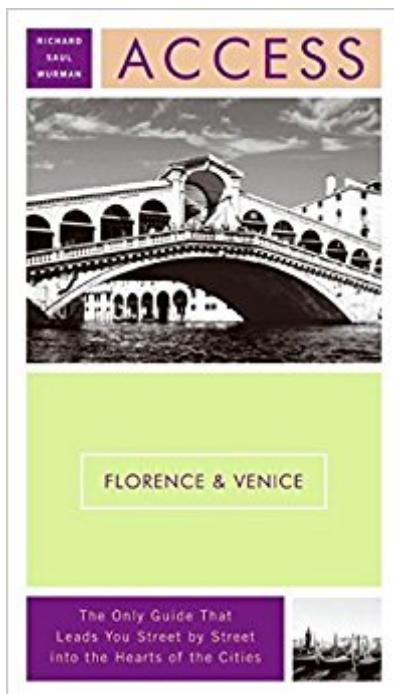


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# Access Florence & Venice 8e (Access Guides)



## **Synopsis**

The perfect combination of commerce and class, Italy's two most beautiful cities are perfectly presented in the 8th edition of ACCESS Florence & Venice. With traditions in art, history, culture and romance, both Florence and Venice have long been favorite Italian destinations for travelers everywhere. And why not, since the cities themselves amply display visual evidence of the power, prestige and prominence that is their heritage. Including extensive coverage of the warm Tuscan countryside and including some of the very best establishments to be found in Italy, this is every visitor's indispensable guide to two glorious cities.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

With the publication of his first book in 1962 at the age of 26, Richard Saul Wurman began the singular passion of his life: that of making information understandable. A holder of both M. Arch. & B. Arch. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, he has been awarded several grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two Graham Fellowships & two Chandler Fellowships. In 1991, Richard Saul Wurman received the Kevin Lynch Award from MIT for his creation of the ACCESS travel guides. In 1994, he was named a Fellow of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland & awarded a Doctorate of Fine Arts by the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. In 1995, he received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Art Center College of Design & was Chairman of Graphic Design & Product/Industrial Design of the 1995 Presidential Design Awards. Richard Saul Wurman continues to be a regular consultant to major corporations in matters relating to the design & understanding of information. He is married to novelist Gloria Nagy,

has 4 children & lives in Newport, Rhode Island.

I am working on a Florence trip plan as I write. I have a previous edition of this book that is at least 10 years old, left from a Venice trip and too old to rely on. The bookstore didn't have the current Access Florence edition of this book so I didn't know there was one and I bought the new Rick Steve's book. I was able to figure out what I wanted to see, but was having trouble organizing it into a daily trip plan. I couldn't figure out where to stay or where to eat. Rick Steve's is sometimes too budget conscience for my taste so I don't completely trust his hotel, restaurant recommendations. Fell upon the 2007 edition of this book at my library. Read it and my plan fell into place. What is special about Access books is that they cover the city by section and I can plan my day around seeing a specific section of the city on a given day. Museums, shopping, restaurants and organized by location rather than by topic. For example: I plan to spend a morning in Santa Croce. After visiting the church, I know there is a mosaic workshop around the corner that sounds interesting. The school of leather is around the corner and you can observe the apprentices and buy their work, that's worth a peek. After that I'll need lunch and can find a place close by and know from the review what I'm getting. I'll be ordering my own copy to take with me on the trip. We all know things don't always go according to plan. If we are not hungry after the school of leather, we can do the next thing on our list and then find a reviewed restaurant close to where we are when we are hungry... I have been using Access Guides since 1984, their reviews are accurate and I trust them completely. Restaurants are evaluated for both cost and experience. A four star experience, two dollar sign cost restaurant is not to be missed and I know I can be happy skipping a one star, four dollar sign restaurant. Another thing I love about these books is "The Best". They ask predominant locals what are the best things about their city. These comments are scattered throughout the book and are as diverse as the locals. With a new book, I read these first make a list of them and then figure out what ones will be worked into my travel plan. This book has a list of "Don't Leave Florence Without" and I can promise you that I will do all 10 things and know they will be worth the time and a great experience. Bottom line: an Access Guide and Rick Steves Guide are the perfect travel planning tools. Rick Steve's ranks the sites and incorporates a lot of travel logistics into his books which Access doesn't have. However, it is the Access guide that will go with me on the trip.

The Access Guides have always been excellent on explaining the architecture of cities, and in this one there is a lot of wonderful architecture to explain. Explanations are often accompanied by drawings or diagrams, so that you can find your way around inside, for instance, museums or

cathedrals. There is enough background on the cities to understand the overall layout to help you orient yourself. In addition, the Access Guides arrange the sites by proximity, so that all of the things to see in one area are presented together, sorted by color-coding, so that one may easily distinguish shops from restaurants or hotels, from sights and from parks. This makes it easy to run one's eye down the page and see what is ahead. It also puts in your way some interesting stores or restaurants one might otherwise miss. Overall, very useful and accessible. Definitely a guide to have in your pocket or shoulder bag as you walk around the city.

Excellent guides; perfectly summarized reviews of major destinations, tourist attractions, shops and restaurants, separated out by neighborhood with maps and ratings. Along with Eyewitness Guides, these are some of my favorites.

Many years old, but hopefully still up to date enough. Thought it was get revised?

Out of date, but still useful for descriptions

Updated and excellent. For my money one of the best travel guides for Florence you can buy.

This book helped us navigate some of the best restaurants and hole in the wall places in Venice. I highly recommend it. I've used several of the other Access books and they have never let me down.

for myself, Received as described. the speed is so amazing. Great Price for a Very Sharp Bread product. great and good experience.

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